

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1070

By Tillis

A RESOLUTION to honor the president, board, and members of the Elk Valley Forestry Association on being named the 2017 County Forestry Association of the Year.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in recognizing those local organizations that work with purpose to promote viable practices that at once preserve the natural lands of Tennessee and promote industry; and

WHEREAS, the Elk Valley Forestry Association (EVFA) has been named the 2017 County Forestry Association of the Year by the Tennessee Forestry Association, an award that recognizes the longstanding commitment to forestry evidenced by this standout organization; and

WHEREAS, the EVFA was formed on April 13, 2004, and was organized in Lincoln County with the intent of including coordinators in Bedford, Marshall, and Moore counties. Initially, twenty individuals were recruited as members; this number has grown to an average of fifty regular participating members each year; and

WHEREAS, deeply committed to the growth and prosperity of forestry and the timber industry, the EVFA represents both small and large landowners, loggers, mills, and land companies, and a diverse group of board members offers guidance to the association and its members; and

WHEREAS, the EVFA's mission of service and education has remained constant throughout the years; the association meets regularly for educational events, teaming with agriculture and forestry professionals who educate local landowners and other interested participants on enjoying and managing their forest lands; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the EVFA board of directors has been to organize at least two field days each year to exhibit and promote a variety of land management techniques; these field days generally last half a day and include lunch on site, and board members and their families staff the activities, while program presenters whose expertise lies in the fields of agriculture, forestry, wildlife management, and other appropriately related fields of interest provide the feature presentation; these events have provided educational opportunities for high school classes and certain governmental employees whose organizations accept the activity as continuing education; and

WHEREAS, the success of the EVFA is due to the dedication of the president, boards of directors, and members, as well as guidance from personnel in the University of Tennessee Agriculture Extension Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, the area forester and fire technician, Healthy Hardwoods seminars, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Nature Conservancy, sawmill owners, and wood product producers, as well as occasional financial support from the Tennessee Forestry Association; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we recognize this stellar organization, which serves as a conscientious steward of the land and a staunch proponent of industry; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate the president, board, and members of the Elk Valley Forestry Association on being named the 2017 County Forestry Association of the Year, salute the association's ongoing commitment to forestry, and extend to these good people our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.